

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 522
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Ricky Bowers and the Montgomery Bell Academy football team on winning the 1999 TSSAA Division II AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, Montgomery Bell Academy of Nashville is an exemplary college preparatory school that also hosts Tennessee's oldest football program; and

WHEREAS, the Big Red have enjoyed 101 consecutive seasons of football excellence and have earned numerous gridiron laurels, including Nashville's first City Championship (1900), Tennessee's first State Championship (1915), and 10 State Championships overall; and

WHEREAS, since 1899, MBA has compiled an impressive record of 580 wins, 289 losses and 45 ties for an outstanding winning percentage of 63.5%; and

WHEREAS, the peerless MBA gridiron squads for the 1925, 1926 and 1927 seasons posted some truly remarkable accomplishments: they had a combined 23-0 record and outscored their opponents 1,191 to 19 en route to three consecutive undefeated seasons; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, MBA has amassed 100 wins against a mere 22 losses for a winning percentage of 82%; and

WHEREAS, considering Montgomery Bell Academy's long and illustrious history as a fine academic institution and Tennessee's first and most distinguished football powerhouse, it comes as no great surprise that the 1999 Big Red have continued this storied tradition by

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 522

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winning their second consecutive state championship (1998 and 1999), compiling an amazing winning streak of 19 games that stretches over the past two seasons; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Montgomery Bell Academy Big Red football squad displayed a rare passion for the game, as the individual players truly bonded together to create one of the finest high school football teams this state has ever known; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Big Red players can perhaps be best described as "smart and talented, disciplined, yet explosive" for their gridiron exploits, but each of these fine young men also distinguished himself as a credit to his school, and exemplified MBA's Ideal: "Gentleman, Scholar Athlete" ; and

WHEREAS, the Big Red were expertly led in their quest for excellence by senior wide receiver Barton Simmons; senior running backs Tate Rich and Jonas Rodriguez; and junior quarterback Ingle Martin; and

WHEREAS, Coach Ricky Bowers has done an excellent job of preparing these fine young men for life both on and off the football field, and he has molded some exceptional individual talent into one great unified team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bowers' enviable performance at MBA includes a 63-12 record with a winning percentage of 84%, two consecutive state championships, and a runner-up finish in the Clinic Bowl (1997); and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Big Red outscored their opponents 425-82 en route to a 12-0 perfect season, which included impressive victories over perennial football powerhouses such as Lincoln County, Pearl-Cohn, and Brentwood Academy, and a 49-15 victory over Christian Brothers in the Clinic Bowl; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the highly coveted state championship, MBA was also honored with national rankings; they were ranked 18th by the definitive *USA Today* Super 25 Poll; 8th by the Dick Butkus Football Network Top 25; and 20th by FoxSports FAB 50; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Big Red football team has shown their true colors by adding yet another thrilling chapter to the long and illustrious history of gridiron greatness at MBA, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Coach Ricky Bowers and the 1999 Montgomery Bell Academy Big Red football team on their completion of an unblemished season in which they captured the TSSAA Division II AA State Championship, and wish these exceptional young men much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.